RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 20th *December, 1999/19 Agrahayana,* 1921 *(Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock Mr. Chairman *in the Chair*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Assets created under Special Component Plans in States

*301. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have complied with the request to send the details of the assets created under the Special Component Plans; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Most of the States have complied with request. Details of the sectors in which assets have been created under SCP are given in the Statement.

Statement

Assets created in the Sectors under Special Component Plan:

Under the Special Component Plan it is not possible to give details of physical assets created, as funds are generally spent on programmes for socio-economic development of SCs through investment in human resource development, for creating better & more opportunities for employment, improving productivity and creating better infrastructure in areas where the persons belonging to SC predominantly inhabitate. The assets have been specially created in the following areas:—

(1) In Agriculture & Allied Services to increase productivity through improved agriculture practices and animal husbandary, distribution of agricultural inputs, watershed development and soil conservation, setting up breeding centres, Dairy Development federations, distribution of nurseries for social forestry, generating employment opportunities, modernisation of irrigation projects-command area development and community lift irrigation schemes.

(2) In Industries sector to train manpower in small scale and cottage industries, sericulture, handlooms etc.

(3) In Transport sector by construction of rural roads and bridges.

(4) In Social Services Sector by conducting skill development programmes in Polytechnics I.T.Is providing education opportunities, construction of Primary Health Centres to improve health care and sub center buildings, increase of beds in hospitals, conducting surgical camps, provision of Rural Water Supply, conversion of dry latrines into hand flush latrines, Urban and Rural Housing Programmes, improvement in environment of slums, resettlement of bonded labourers, provision of improved nutritional intake for pregnant and lactating mothers and young children.

(5) In Power Sector by implementing rural electrification program mes in areas which are predominantly inhabited by persons belonging to Scheduled Castes.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I take up the question of creation of assets, I would like to point out that the reply to my Unstarred Question No. 615 of 28th July, 1999 on the subject was, "All the States and Union Territories which have Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes, have already been requested to furnish the details of assets created for Scheduled Castes. The details will be placed on the Table of House on receipt of the same from the States and the Union Territories". Here, the answer says that it is not possible. So, the Government is avoiding to give this information to the House. In one reply, the Government says that the details will be laid on the Table of the House. In the other, it says that it is not possible.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, what Mr. Bisi is saying is quite true. The Government did give this answer. When it came to me, I found that it was ridiculous, that we could not get information from the States. Now, we have been trying for three years. The States were really reluctant to give information about what they had done. However, we have got a list of eight States, in which they have furnished us information regarding the creation of assets under the Special Component Plan. These were the only States that have replied, बार-बार बोलने के बाद। I have complete details, right down to the

last bit, of what they have done. These eight States are headed by Orissa. So, if you would like to know, I can tell you right now. Otherwise, I can give you the list.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, there is a procedure. The Minister, whoever he or she was, has given an assurance on the floor of the House. If that assurance has not been complied with, it is for the Assurances Committee to look into it. What apparently appears to be contradictory is that, once an assurance is given, the Government may take time to fulfill that assurance, but it simply cannot pass a sweeping judgment that it is not possible. If it is not possible, the Assurances Committee should be convinced as to why it is not possible. The reply which the hon. Minister has given is that, under the SCP, it is not possible to give details of the physical assets created. If the Government has come to this conclusion, after trying to get the information, then the appropriate forum would be the Assurances Committee and, surely, the Assurances Committee will

pursue it. Therefore, my most respectful submission would be that you defer this question, ascertain the facts as to what has happened in the Assurances Committee and, after that, we can ask the question and the supplementaries.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, it is a very valid question that has been raised by him. The hon. Chairman should really come to the rescue. The point is that, it is not within the hands of the Central Government. The information has to be given by the States. Can the Centre compell the State Governments and to what extent? This has to be referred to the Assurances Committee, as you have said and then, let the Assurances Committee look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Assurances Committee should be ceased of the matter. It should look into it.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Yes, Sir. We have been pursuing this and writing back to the Assurances Committee. As I said, eight States have replied with details and the others have just written back saying that they cannot quantify this.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: May I ask one question, Sir? When it was brought to your notice, you came to the conclusion that it was not possible for you to come to any conclusion about the assets created. Does it mean, at the time of replying to the earlier question, the

Minister; whosoever he was, did not apply his mind whether the assets were going to be created, because, basically, the first question says that the assets could be created and that the State Governments had to reply. Whether there are eight States or ten States, it doesnlt really matter. But nobody seems to have applied his mind whether it is going to be possible to create any asset or not. Subsequently, you feel that it is not possible for you to find out the details. There seems to be some obvious contradiction between the two.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I agree with you that there is some contradiction in it. I am not sure—I don't know what should I say— how the assurance was given since the SCP usually goes in the form of loans to small people, and they start their own little work, like leather or dairying or something in which case it is difficult to record an asset by the States. They are all given little, little amounts of money. I am not sure under what circumstances the assurance was given to the extent that we can quantify it. Again, you see the answer given to Mr. Bisi's questions. When we had asked, "What are the assets that have been created? "They said" 17,969 beneficiaries have been assisted for self-employment under some bankable schemes." That is not asset creation. But that is the best that we can do. We have given Rs. 70 crores under the schemes of fisheries, animal husbandry, agriculture, vocational training in that, they have said, "We have given 577 thesel pumpsets." That is also not asset creation. Here, they have given it to somebody. So even the answer that I am going to hand over to Mr. Bisi is not specifically about asset creation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, the Assurance Committee will look into it. Next Question No. 30?.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Sir, I have to put supplmentaries to the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everything is being referred to the Assurance Committee. What supplimentaries are required now? Question No. 302.